

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 231843Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8803
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 09441

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), GW, WB
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE FRG AND BERLIN:
CONCEPT AND TRIP SUMMARY

1. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHITE HOUSE SURVEY TEAM,
WE SET FORTH BELOW OUR CONCEPT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
BILATERAL VISIT AND A SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND
OPTIONS FOR THE TRIP. A SEPARATE MESSAGE TREATS THE
PRELIMINARY TRIP SCHEDULE IN MORE DETAIL.

I. SETTING.

THE PRESIDENT'S BILATERAL VISIT TO THE FRG WILL
COME FOLLOWING STATE VISITS BY LEONID BREZHNEV AND THE
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QUEEN OF ENGLAND, AND SHORTLY AFTER A SUMMIT MEETING OF
THE EC-9 IN BREMEN AND DIRECTLY BEFORE THE ECONOMIC
SUMMIT. THESE VISITS FORM A CONTEXT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S
TRIP. THEY UNDERSCORE THE FRG'S GROWING ROLE IN
WORLD AFFAIRS -- A ROLE THAT HAS MOVED THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC INTO A POSITION OF EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP ON A
RANGE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES. THE BREZHNEV

VISIT ALSO UNDERSCORES THE COMPLEXITY OF GERMANY'S PROBLEMS, AS A DIVIDED COUNTRY, IN WEIGHING EASTERN AGAINST WESTERN CONSIDERATIONS.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WILL HAVE A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE AMONG FRG SUMMITS. WE ARE GERMANY'S MOST IMPORTANT PARTNER, AND THE STATE WHICH CAN PLAY THE MOST VITAL ROLE -- FOR GOOD OR ILL -- IN GERMANY'S AND EUROPE'S FUTURE.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP WILL ALSO COME IN A PERIOD OF LINGERING TENSION IN US-FRG RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE ATMOSPHERE IS ALREADY SHOWING SIGNS OF IMPROVEMENT. SOME OF THE TENSION REFLECTS UNCERTAINTY IN THE FRG ABOUT US POLICIES AND SKEPTICISM WHETHER WE HAVE A CONSISTENT VIEW OF RELATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES, WITH THE EAST, AND WITH THE THIRD WORLD.

THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO BE IN THE FRG AT A TIME OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AMONG US FORCES IN EUROPE, AND OF SOME LINGERING DOUBTS IN THE US ABOUT THE VALUE OF OUR FORCE COMMITMENTS TO NATO.

FINALLY, THE VISIT WILL OCCUR DURING A MATURE PERIOD OF HELMUT SCHMIDT'S CHANCELLORSHIP, WITH SIGNS OF BOTH STABILITY AND FRAYING AT THE EDGES OF THE
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COALITION.

II. CONCEPT AND PURPOSE.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS A CHANCE TO UNDERSCORE THE VALUE WE ATTACH TO THE US-FRG RELATIONSHIP, TO STRESS THE COMMONALITY OF OUR INTERESTS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FRG'S LONG-TERM ROLE AS PART OF THE WEST, AND TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR A GROWING GERMAN ROLE IN SUPPORT OF OUR COMMON INTERESTS. AGAINST THIS BROAD BACKGROUND, CURRENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON WILL FALL INTO PERSPECTIVE.

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT IS ALSO A CHANCE TO REMIND AMERICANS AND OTHERS OF OUR INTEREST AND PRESENCE IN THE FRG AND IN EUROPE AS A WHOLE.

FINALLY, THIS TRIP IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT OUR POSITION AS SENIOR PARTNER IN A VITAL ALLIANCE SYSTEM WHICH MAINTAINS PEACE AND STABILITY, A PROCESS SERVING BOTH EASTERN AND WESTERN INTERESTS.

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III. GUIDELINES FOR VISIT.

THE ABOVE THOUGHTS TRANSLATE INTO SEVERAL
CONSIDERATIONS WE HAVE USED IN PRELIMINARY PLANNING
FOR THE TRIP:

-- WE SEE THE NEED BOTH FOR MAXIMUM TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE CHANCELLOR, BILATERALLY AND DURING THE WIDER
SUMMIT, AND FOR BROAD PUBLIC EXPOSURE OUTSIDE BONN.

-- WE BELIEVE A STATE VISIT IS THE BEST CATEGORY FOR
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THE TRIP, AND THE ONE USED BY RECENT TOP-LEVEL VISITORS.
AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED SOME POSSIBLE
SHORTCUTS TO EASE THE PROTOCOL PROBLEMS OF A STATE
VISIT.

-- WE SEE A FIELD VISIT WITH US FORCES AS SERVING
SEVERAL PURPOSES. SUCH A VISIT CAN UNDERSCORE THE US
DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO EUROPE; IT CAN STRESS TO US FORCES
THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR MISSION; AND, LIKE OTHER PARTS
OF THE TRIP AS A WHOLE, IT CAN MAKE CLEAR TO THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC THE REALITY THAT OUR COMMITMENT IN
EUROPE SERVES BOTH US AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

-- IN ADDITION TO SHOWING HIS FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE
CHANCELLOR, WE BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ALSO MAKE
CLEAR AMERICA'S CONTINUING INTERESTS IN THE FRG AS A
WHOLE. BRIEF MEETINGS WITH OTHER PARTY LEADERS WOULD
BE A SIGN OF SUCH INTEREST; OBVIOUSLY A MEETING WITH
OPPOSITION LEADER HELMUT KOHL WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT
SUCH DISCUSSION.

-- WE SEE A VISIT TO BERLIN AS A WAY TO UNDERSCORE US
DETERMINATION TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY, AND
ALSO AS THE LOGICAL OCCASION FOR A SPEECH AIMED AT BOTH
A BERLIN AND A GLOBAL AUDIENCE.

IV. TRIP SUMMARY.

BILATERAL DAY ONE (JULY 14)

MORNING:

OFFICE ARRIVAL CEREMONY
COURTESY CALL ON FEDERAL PRESIDENT
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MEETING WITH FEDERAL CHANCELLOR (2 1/2 HOURS)
WORKING LUNCHEON WITH CHANCELLOR

AFTERNOON:

PRESS CONFERENCE
MOTORCADE THROUGH BONN (SIGN GOLDEN BOOK AT CITY
HALL, LAY WREATH)
MEET WITH LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES
STAFF TIME
STATE DINNER

BILATERAL DAY TWO (JULY 15)

MORNING:

VISIT A MAJOR GERMAN CITY (WIESBADEN OR FRANKFURT)

VISIT A US MILITARY INSTALLATION (BRIGADE 76)

AFTERNOON:

VISIT BERLIN

GREET MEMBERS OF US OCCUPATION FORCES

MAJOR SPEECH TO LARGE BERLIN AUDIENCE

RETURN TO BONN

EVENING FREE

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